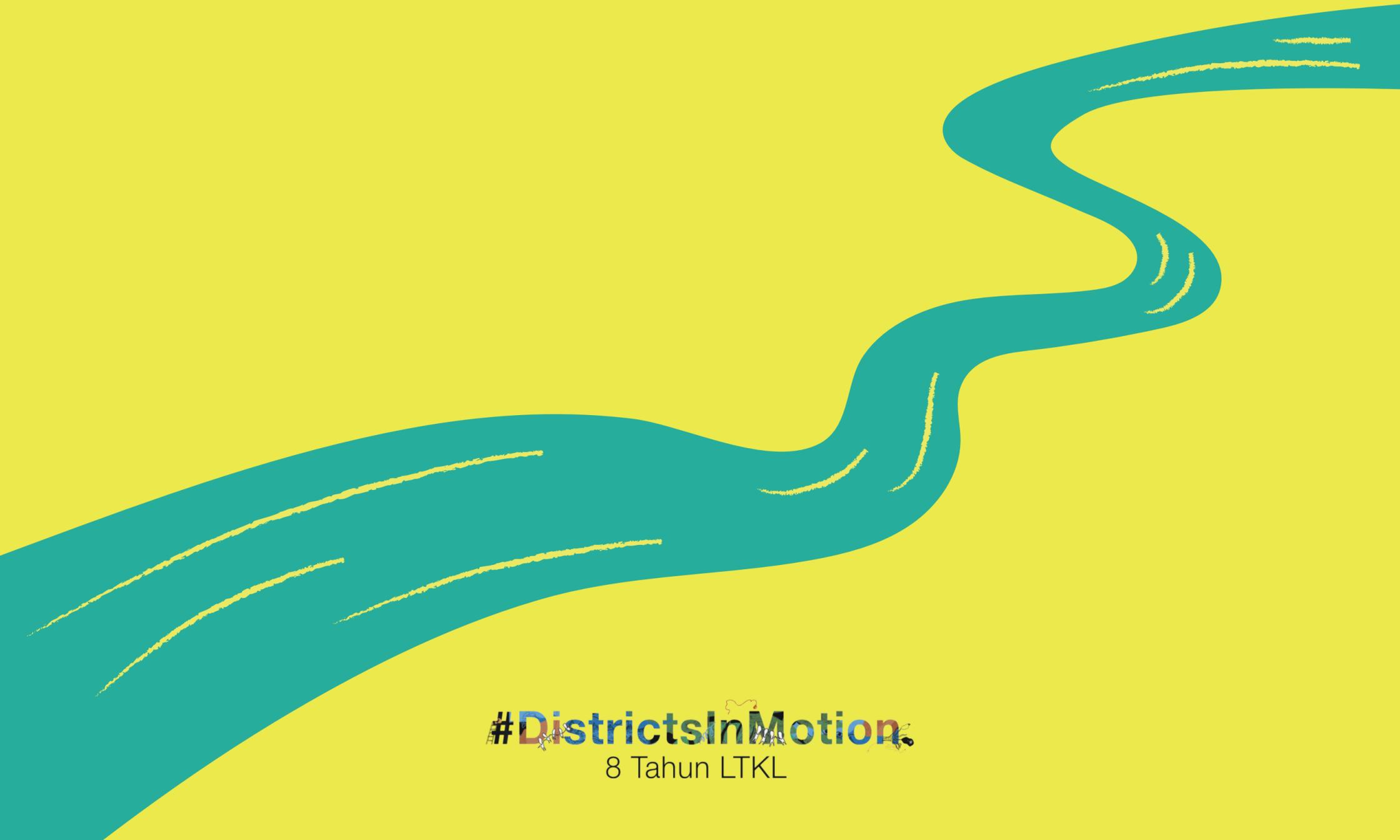


RESILIENCE





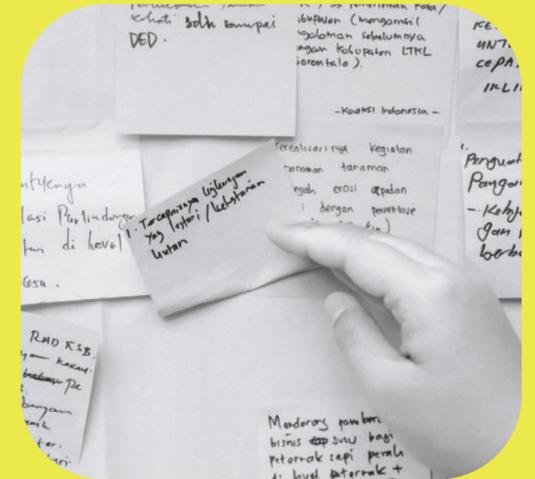
*Are We
Strong Enough?*

Holding Our Course in a Time of Change

The past two years have been anything but calm. They have forced us to keep pace with an ever-changing dynamic rhythm. The period of 2024–2025 has brought significant transitions for districts. Changes in leadership, increasingly unforgiving global climate, and tightening fiscal space that has forced local governments to tighten their belts. In situations like these, development feels like walking on moving ground: every step demands awareness, and every decision carries consequences.

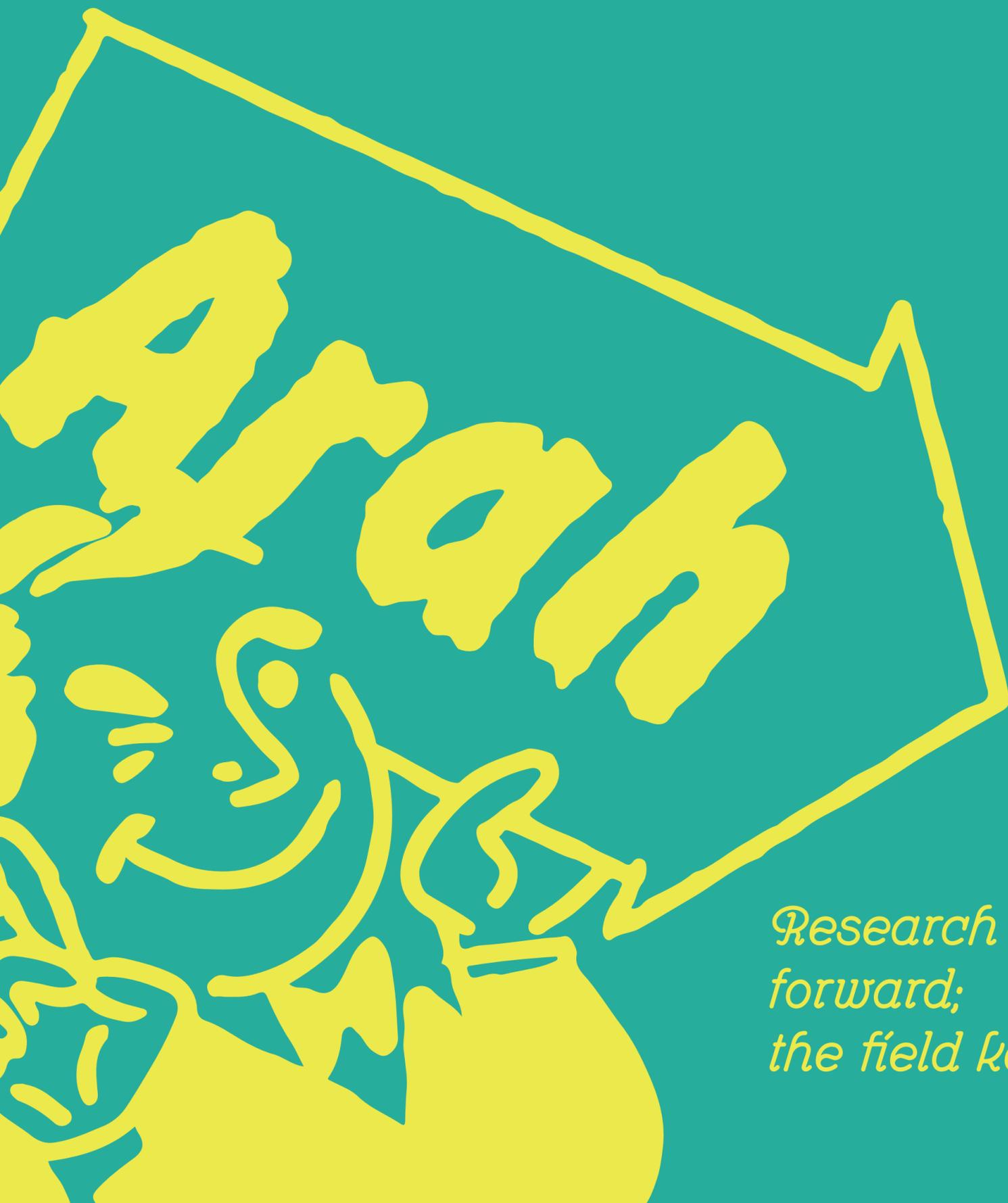
Yet long-standing challenges remain. The way we manage nature leaves a gap between today and tomorrow. Extractive economic practices continue to drain natural resources, while gaps in governance often render protection efforts lagging behind. As space for recovery narrows, life around it becomes more fragile. Vulnerability grows quietly—felt most deeply by those living closest to forests, rivers, and land, who protect these ecosystems as their daily lives depend on them.

Amid this uncertainty, Lingkar Temu Kabupaten Lestari (LTKL) and its member districts chose not to stand still. We are holding our direction together. Policies and plans are crafted with greater care, like taking a deep breath before taking a step further. Research serves as the foundation, while experience from the field provides guidance. Efforts to build a sustainable economy are slowly taking root from the ground up, bringing added value closer to communities and opening space for more equitable approaches.



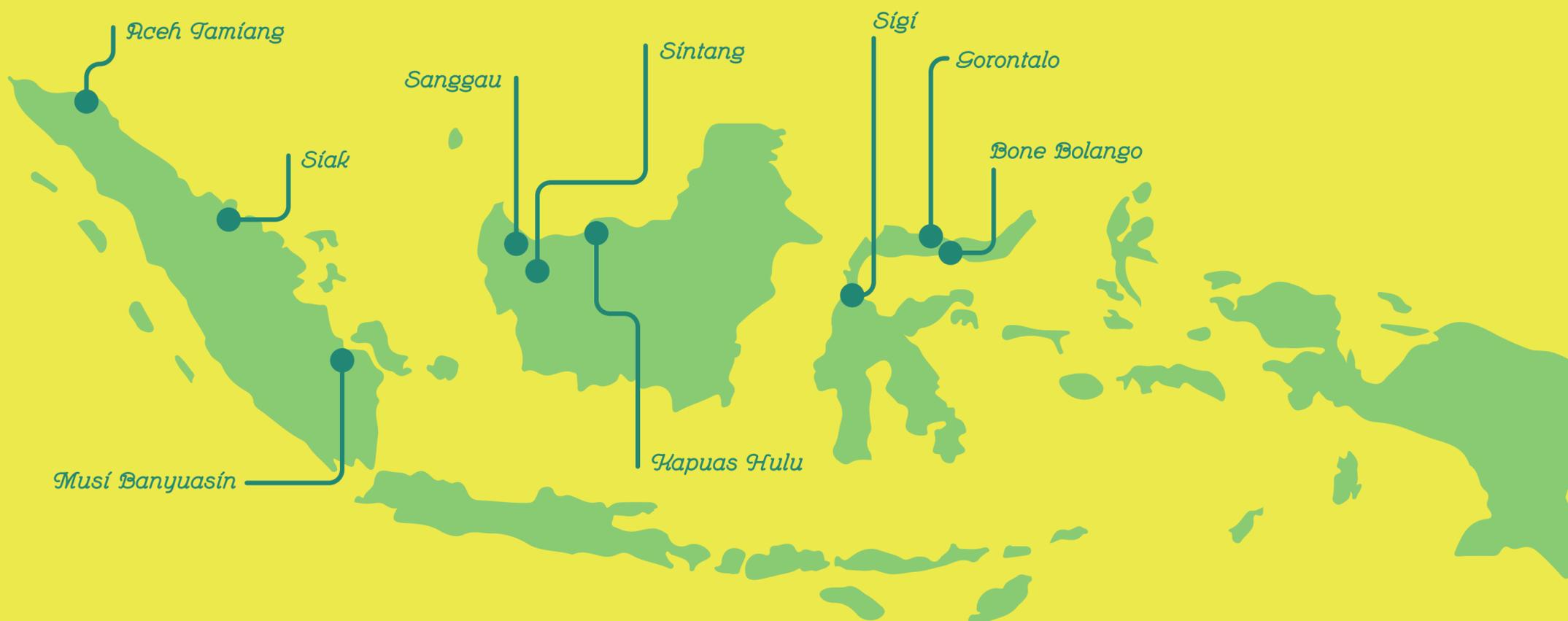
Looking ahead, the hope is simple yet fundamental: to ensure that change is truly felt. Through tangible pilot models, small steps are maintained so they do not lose their meaning—becoming proof that a sustainable future is not a distant promise, but something actively being worked toward. Grown together, day by day.

Direction is maintained through conversation, planning, and policies built on deeper listening—like preparing for a long journey while making sure no one is left behind.



Research points the way forward; experience from the field keeps us grounded.

Experiment Gallery



Disclaimer:

This section reflects our appreciation for the initiatives, experiences, concrete actions, and lessons from the field. It is not intended as a credit for LTKL's work.

Protecting What Sustains Life

Aceh Tamiang's Story of Recovery and Resilience

In Aceh Tamiang, life unfolds alongside the forests. They channel water, anchor the soil, and offer a sense of security. Yet parts of these forests have been lost, leaving behind tangible challenges: more frequent flooding, fragile land, and livelihoods under growing pressure. With so much already gone, every change is felt more deeply, and every decision carries greater weight.



Amid these constraints, Aceh Tamiang did not give up. Recovery is a herculean task that must be cared for and calls for deeper dedication. Protecting the forest here is not only about safeguarding nature, but about restoring the very values that sustain life itself. The less that remains, the more precious it becomes.



Since 2019, development priorities have been gradually reoriented. Through agreed upon shared targets, production, environmental protection, and community participation are woven together so they can move forward side by side. The path has not always been easy, but the efforts and hope must be maintained and carefully kept rooted.

In the Leuser buffer zone, forest protection is carried out with patience. The Regional Deforestation Monitoring Team works to keep forests under close watch. Slowly, the results have become visible. Albeit not perfect, the effort continues, to ensure safeguard for the people within it.



“Protecting forests means protecting our shared living space. We choose to move slowly, so that both what we protect and those who protect it can endure longer.”



–Neni Sriwahyuni, Aceh Tamiang Development Planning Agency (Bappeda)

Restoration grows from the ground up. Around 12,000 hectares of forest are being restored through agroforestry, where trees and livelihoods strengthen one another. Communities take part through social forestry, opening up more equitable forest management that is locally rooted.



As part of the LTKL community, Aceh Tamiang has committed to protecting and restoring more than 37,000 hectares of areas for other uses (areal penggunaan lain/APL). With existing limitations, collaboration has become a cornerstone, bringing together local government, partners such as the Leuser Conservation Forum (FKL), and communities to stay aligned in their efforts. This collaboration is further strengthened by the Sustainable Plantation Center of Excellence (Pusat Unggulan Perkebunan Lestari/PUPL), a multistakeholder partnership forum that connects diverse actors in pursuit of a sustainable future for Aceh Tamiang. Amid the dominance of oil palm, Aceh Tamiang is working on many fronts to put its house in order, ensuring there is no further expansion and that existing plantations are properly managed. At the same time, other options must begin to grow: patchouli, cocoa, and mangroves. This is how space is created for nature to breathe. This story grows out of everyday work, and this year it reaches the IUCN World Conservation Congress 2025, reminding us that grounded efforts can echo far beyond where they begin.

Keeping Peatlands Wet, Building Shared Prosperity

A Story of Innovation from Siak



In Siak, a group of young people is taking pivotal steps: caring for peatlands, keeping the soil wet, while building fair livelihoods for local communities. Pinaloka and Alam Siak Lestari (ASL) are more than just an effort. They are spaces where economy and ecology move together, where value is created without taking life from nature.

Meanwhile, young people in the Skelas Ecosystem (Skelas, ASL, Pinaloka, Explore Siak, and Haha Hihi Media) have initiated the Sustainable Innovation Festival 2025. It is a moment that opens space for ideas to grow. Communities, academics, government actors, and the private sector come together to share stories and explore new ways of caring for ecosystems. Ten ideas were born from the Siak Innovation Challenge, held as part of the festival with a shared commitment to peatland protection. Simple yet concrete: community-based monitoring systems, sustainable land use practices, and the preservation of Malay culture through local food and aroma-based tourism concepts.



From a district, this story travels internationally. At the World Expo Osaka 2025, Siak's restorative practices are seen, heard, and become a source of inspiration for global audiences. From these exchanges of experience, new opportunities open up, strengthening local action while demonstrating that solutions rooted in land and people can be relevant anywhere.

Walking on wet ground, protecting every step, sustaining every livelihood. From Pinaloka and ASL to global networks, Siak offers a simple lesson: that innovation born from the heart can protect nature, build an economy, and support communities in warm and lasting ways. Small steps that foster awareness and build long-term protection for Siak's peatlands.

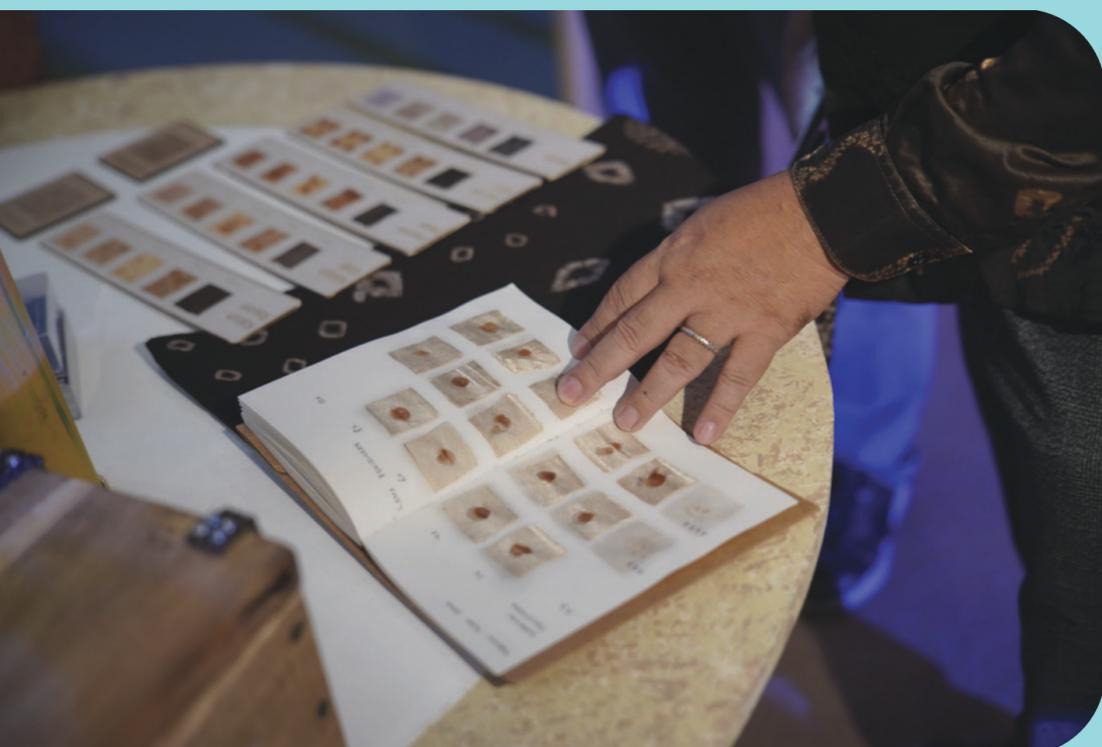
Innovation, Dyed in Color: From Waste to Value

Sambo Muba, Musi Banyuasin



In Babat Toman, Musi Banyuasin, gambier has long been part of the community's everyday life. Grown in small gardens, its sap is processed and sold as dried blocks for the cosmetics industry. In the past, the wastewater from this process was simply left behind. Over time, it was reexamined and rediscovered as a natural dye for textiles.

From this liquid, the colors of Gambo Muba were born. But these colors are created with intention. Artisans developed a gambier color panel, which is used as a shared reference to maintain quality, consistency, and character of each hue. The panel has become a lingua franca: ensuring every piece of cloth carries the same standard and expresses the unique identity of Musi Banyuasin.



This standardization has given Gambo Muba the confidence to grow as a sustainable local product. The fabrics are easier to market, earn consumer trust, and command higher value. Behind this process, women play a central role. Tying, dyeing, and carefully tending each stage, they turn textile making into a steady source of additional income.

At the same time, the development of Gambo Muba has opened new spaces for the youths. From dye processing, design, production, to marketing, business opportunities are growing locally. Gambier is no longer just a garden crop, but an entry point into a nature-based creative economy.



This movement is also being nurtured by the younger generation. Through Kriya Kite, a gambier-based enterprise led by youth from Musi Banyuasin, textile designs and products are developed with renewed spirit. It has become a space for experimentation that bridges tradition, creativity, and the market. This effort is further strengthened by Selaras, a local incubator supporting sustainable micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs) in Musi Banyuasin, from capacity building to product development and market networking to ensure that local innovations can grow sustainably.



From a color panel to a piece of cloth, Gambo Muba shows that quality can be maintained together. That value can be created from waste and hope can grow from small gardens, hence sustaining women's livelihoods, opening pathways for young generations, and guiding Musi Banyuasin toward a more sustainable future.



Weaving that Preserves Traces: From Thread to Life

Weaving, Women, and Nature in Kapuas Hulu



In Kapuas Hulu, the hands of Dayak Iban women move with a quiet patience honed through years of weaving. Threads are arranged slowly, while colors are drawn from the surrounding forests. Leaves, roots, and tree bark are gathered only as needed. From this process, ikat weaving is crafted not merely as fabric, but as a way of life. One that binds people and nature together.



For the Dayak Iban, weaving is a tradition that sustains more than livelihoods. It keeps values, customs, and culture alive across generations. Each motif carries lessons of balance, while the act of weaving itself preserves a respectful relationship with the forest that provides natural dyes. In this way, weaving also cares for the landscapes of Kapuas Hulu. Deliberately, consciously, and with deep respect.

In Kapuas Hulu, the tradition is not left to stand still. It is preserved collectively, passed from one pair of hands to another. Weavers revisit shared memories, learn from one another, and strengthen their bonds as they weave stories of identity and perseverance. From modest village spaces, these works slowly find renewed meaning.

Hardiyanti, together with Mahakarya Tenun, serves as a bridge, documenting knowledge that was close to being lost and carrying it forward into public spaces and wider markets. Further support flows through the Aram Bekelala Tenun Iban program, a collaboration between Kawan Lama Foundation, Cita Tenun Indonesia, Pendopo, and LTKL. Spanning four villages, this movement has grown into a community of more than one hundred active weavers. They explore new colors derived from nature, enriching the beauty of Iban textiles while strengthening livelihoods, building confidence, and nurturing a shared pride woven together.



Today, Dayak Iban ikat weaving steps beyond its place of origin. Rooted in the villages of Kapuas Hulu, these works were introduced at the World Expo Osaka 2025. They carry stories of Indonesian women, culture, and nature to the world. From threads woven patiently by hand, Kapuas Hulu shows that tradition can chart a path toward a sustainable future, without losing its soul.

In Sintang, development is nurtured as a shared endeavor that grows from trust. Through the Mitra Pembangunan (Development Partner) Awards, the district government does more than celebrating achievements. It creates a meeting ground where partners, civil society, businesses, academics, and the media come together to recognize one another's roles, share progress, and plan the steps forward. This momentum affirms that collaboration is a vital foundation for a more sustainable Sintang.

Opening Space, Connecting Flavors

A Story of Collaboration from Sintang

That collective effort is further strengthened by the Sustainable Sintang Development Joint Secretariat, which functions as a connective hub between various stakeholders. Here, ideas meet local needs, and plans are developed to truly take root on the ground. The Joint Secretariat helps ensure that collaboration remains inclusive, aligned with the district's development direction, and open to community-based initiatives.

“Collaborating with the government opens pathways to green and non-extractive jobs, while also supporting the development of local products, such as snakehead fish, durian, coffee, tengkawang, and spices.”

—Millavenia Pusparini, SSL

One tangible outcome of this collaborative approach is the strengthening of sustainably produced local flagship products, including food. In Sintang, food grows from forests, fields, and rivers, sustaining livelihoods while maintaining relationship with the nature. These ingredients are more than commodities. They embody inherited identity and knowledge, carefully preserved so they remain relevant and valued.

Sintang’s food story then travels beyond regional borders through Saprahan: Flavors from Sintang in Jakarta. In a collaboration between LTKL, Kelas Pagi Pangan, and La Ode, ingredients from Sintang are transformed into menus that feel both familiar and refreshingly new: *asam maram*, *sour eggplant*, *Dayak onion*, *tengkawang butter*, and *pekasam* (fermented fish). On the dining table, flavor becomes a shared language, connecting producers, processors, and those who savor the food.



Photo by: Kelas Pagi Indonesia

From Sintang, collaboration reveals itself in simple yet meaningful ways: opening space, linking efforts, and nurturing values. Development no longer stands alone; it moves forward together. Slowly, rooted, and full of hope for an inclusive and sustainable local economy.

Protecting Nature, Inviting People Home

*A Story of
Ecotourism from Sanggau*



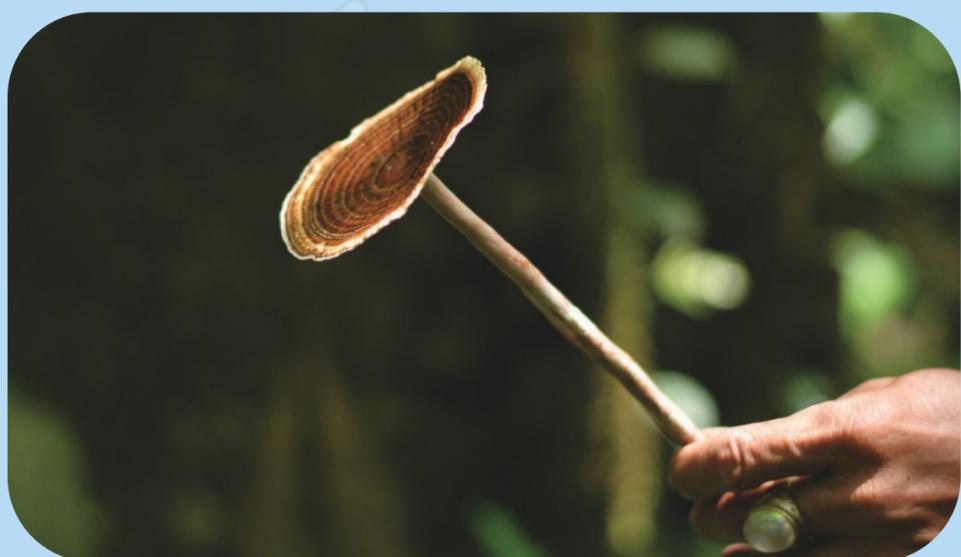
In Sanggau District, nature and culture grow side by side. Standing forests, gently flowing rivers, and rich biodiversity are parts of everyday life, preserved alongside traditions and stories that remain alive within the community. From this meeting of land and culture, Sanggau's appeal as a destination takes shape: not as a spectacle, but as an experience that invites visitors to arrive with respect and fosters a sense of responsibility for preserving natural and cultural heritage.

One such story lives in Tae Village. Here, the forest is not merely a landscape, but a way of life. The customary forest of Tae is protected as a space of inherited values, memory, and relationships. Within it, durian, lanzone, and *tengkawang* trees, along with dozens of natural springs that sustain the village.



Tengkawang trees are safeguarded with deep reverence. For the Dayak Tae people, it is a symbol of life. When the flowering season arrives, the Ngampun ceremony is held to seek protection.

The enduring presence of Tae's customary forest is rooted in local wisdom. It is not meant to be exploited, but to be understood. Cutting down trees is taboo. Each tree is regarded as a life.



In Tae, the customary forest is more than a green space. It is a marker of identity and origin. Through *tembawang*, people trace their ancestral roots. Through adherence to customary law, nature is protected so it can continue to offer protection in return. Here, ecotourism finds its true meaning: a journey that honors ways of life while creating opportunities to restorative economics, where welfare improves alongside forests that remain standing.

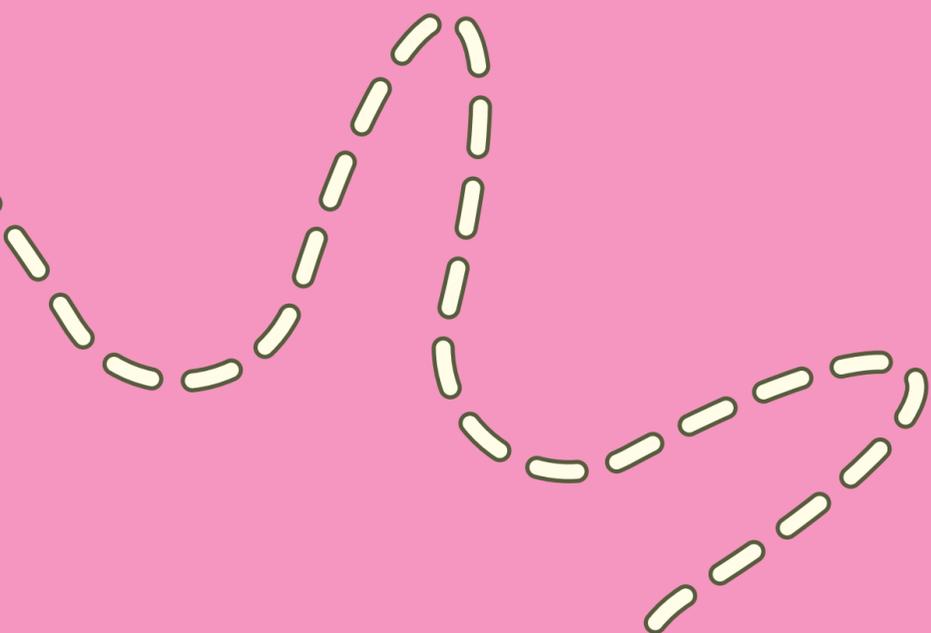
Walking Together on a Shared Land in Bunga Village

Bunga Village's Journey to Obtain an Agrarian Reform Object Land (GORA), Sigi



In Bunga Village, Palolo Subdistrict, Sigi, a land once managed by a company lay abandoned. It became an empty field waiting for hands willing to care for them. In June 2023, the Head of Sigi District opened a path for this land to be brought back to life by the community. Not as individual property, but as shared land. Through the Agrarian Reform Task Force (GTRA), the district government worked with the village to walk the land, corner by corner, listening to its history, and reading the possibilities of a future that could be grown together.

A long journey followed. Spatial data were gathered, the history of Rights to Cultivage (HGU) traced, the lives of surrounding communities carefully considered, and prospective stewards mapped with a spirit of togetherness. Village deliberations, verification, and cross-sector coordination formed the foundation for proposing Agrarian Reform Object Land (TORA) as a communal management scheme. Every step was taken with care because this land was never seen as just a productive space. It was the heart of shared livelihoods, a place where work, responsibility, and benefits are fairly shared.



On 30 June 2025, the official decision arrived: the former HGU land was designated as a TORA by the Minister for Agrarian Affairs and Spatial Planning/National Land Agency to be managed collectively. Through coordination meetings and a Head of District's Decree, 71.71 hectares of APL land are now under the shared stewardship of the people of Bunga Village. Once silent and neglected, the land has become a living commons, where every seed is planted, every step taken, and every harvest cared for as a shared inheritance.



This is where restorative economics finds its home. This good practice takes form in a Communal Space and Shared Production House managed by Gampiri Interaksi Lestari, a collective of young people working together for a sustainable and self-sufficient Sigi. Like the veranda of a home—the center of everyday life—the Shared Production House functions as a communal kitchen: coffee, vanilla, and other intercropped products from villages across Sigi are processed, tested, and prepared for market. Beside it, the communal space is a lively porch, where young people and local communities gather, exchange ideas, paint murals tracing the journey of sustainable commodities, plan ecotourism, and nurture social innovation. Here, economy, culture, and nature meet, like a family sharing space and stories on a front porch.

This is more than administration or a production facility. The land provides food, livelihoods, and hope; togetherness fosters self-sufficiency; and careful stewardship delivers real benefits for the community. Bunga Village holds its land, holds its future, and walks forward with care. Here, people and the earth move side by side, growing hope from root to leaf, like the warmth of life shared on one's own veranda.

Learning, Reading, and Protecting the Nature

*A Story of Hope
from Gorontalo*



Photo by: @sekolahkampung.gto

In Gorontalo, learning does not always happen inside a classroom. It grows in villages, among homes, gardens, and dirt roads. Through Sekolah Kampung Gorontalo (Gorontalo Village School), education takes shape as a collective effort: awakening local potential, nurturing wisdom, and growing hope from the roots. Children, parents, and community members learn together, talking about food, the environment, and ways of living sustainably.

This school is sustained through collaboration. WIRE-G works hand in hand with Terasmitra, volunteers from 1000 Guru, village governments, and other partners. In remote villages, volunteers come not only to teach, but to walk alongside the learning process. Through the Traveling & Teaching program in Pangahu Village, practical skills, environmental awareness, and the diversity of local food are introduced as part of everyday life.



Photo by: @sekolahkampung.gto

Gorontalo also becomes a canvas. Through the National Talent Management program, artists from across regions come, identify the challenges, and respond through their work. Forests, hills, rivers, and the call of the babirusa (deer-pigs) are woven into visual narratives, reminding us that humans and nature are connected, and that every form of damage is a call to act.

Gorontalo today grows from these small encounters: learning that is rooted in place, collaboration built on equality, and creative works born of care. In villages, classrooms, to art spaces, hope is patiently kept alive. Here, education is not only about knowing, but about caring, so that people and nature can continue to walk together, sustain one another, and look toward the future with greater clarity.

A Living Space That Becomes a Veranda of Hope

*The Green Path of
Ilomata, Bone Bolango*



Once, Ilomata was an endless stretch of cornfields. The land was worked, forests were cleared, slopes grew prone to landslides, and farmers were caught in cycles of dependence on middlemen. Slowly, the village began to breathe differently. Together with Japesda, the community learned climate-smart agriculture. Sugar palm, coconut, coffee, fruits, and vegetables now grow alongside corn. Terraces hold back erosion, green once again climbs the hillsides, and soil that was once exhausted now sustains life.

These cultivated lands are where new livelihoods began to grow. PUMK Cahaya Terang Ilomata has become a shared kitchen: women process coconut oil, palm sugar, and honey; open savings and loan opportunities; and build economic independence. Where dependency once prevailed, empowerment grows. The land that is cared for created stable and hopeful livelihoods.

The forest, too, is being protected. Community patrols working with Bogani Nani Wartabone National Park are more than a monitoring effort. They are spaces for learning and inspiration. Rivers winding through the land, birds in flight, and flourishing agroforestry point the village toward ecotourism, where conservation and livelihoods move forward together, like two hands supporting one another.

Today, Ilomata feels like a fertile home yard: land, people, and nature walk side by side. The ISAD-SMILE and seed provision programs expand shared visions, while field schools and formal education prepare a generation ready to care for the earth. Every plant, every idea, every step taken by the community is like a seed waiting to bloom, carrying the village toward self-sufficiency, prosperity, and a greener future.

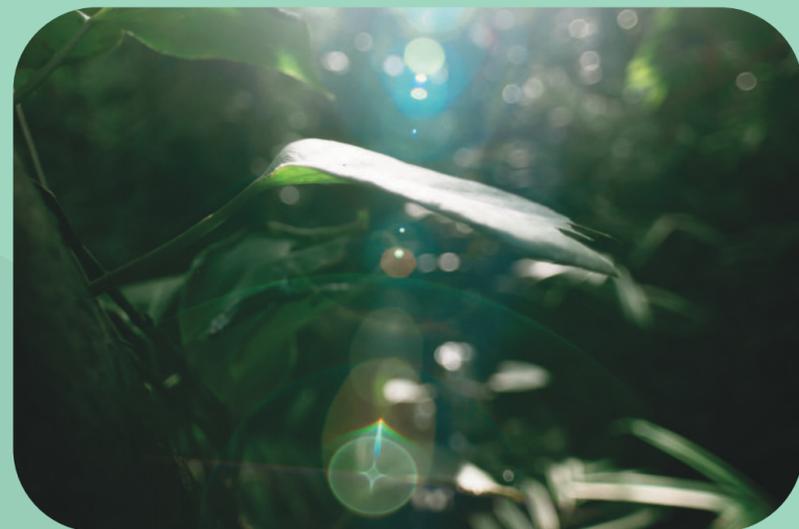
From Ilomata, we learn that climate-smart agriculture is not only about planting crops, but about planting hope. From roots to fruit, from soil to spirit, the village moves forward slowly yet surely, growing a sustainable way of life. A place where people and the earth walk together, strengthen one another, and nurture hope in green.

In many villages, including those in West Kalimantan, a granary does not always stand as a physical structure. It lives instead in memory, habits, and knowledge passed down through generations. From fields, forests, rivers, to kitchens, food is cared for as part of everyday life. Close, familiar, and shared.

The Invisible Granary

Rooted in ancestral knowledge and local wisdom, communities continue to safeguard the local food diversity amid change. As food systems grow increasingly uniform and market-dependent, local practices become a vital buffer. Tubers, upland rice, forest harvests, and traditional foods offer more than nourishment: they offer security because they come from landscapes people understand and manage together.

Here, culture works quietly. It reveals itself in how people plant, prepare, and share food. Resilience is not built from afar, but from closeness to the land, the seasons, and social ties.



This granary becomes fragile as its space narrows. Land-use change, economic pressures, and new consumption patterns have slowly eroded much of this knowledge. But efforts to care for it continue to grow.



Through gatherings, shared learning, and community networks—such as those facilitated by Bakudapan Food Study Group (FSG)—local food is being remembered as part of the future. Slowly, grounded, and rooted in the culture being kept alive.



Like a single cake recipe shared across many kitchens, each one adjusting the ingredients and the method to suit the oven and supplies they have.

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After the Waters Receded

Not long ago, Aceh Tamiang went through difficult days. The rain fell without respite, the water slowly rose, and in a moment reshaped the spaces where life unfolds. Beyond the figures and reports are families forced to rearrange their daily lives, losses that cut deep, and anxieties that linger. The experience reminds us that when nature loses its space, vulnerability emerges more quickly, and the same can happen in many other regions facing similar pressures.



Aceh Tamiang did not face this alone. Member districts of LTKL stood together in the spirit of gotong royong (mutual cooperation), supporting one another and accompanying the long process of recovery.



From this togetherness, hope grows: that wounds can heal, that learning can change our course, and that by caring for one another—across regions, among communities, and with nature—we can build stronger and more equitable resilience in the years ahead.

Scan to support Aceh Tamiang's recovery

kitabisa.com/campaign/atambangkit



Food Security



Our ability to eat well, diversely, and with dignity. How we can sit down to a meal without worry, today and tomorrow.

Local Food

Food that grows close to home, ideally with a clear sense of who planted it and how it was cared for. It tastes familiar because it comes from our own land.

Food Diversity

Many sources, not a single reliance; fields, forests, rivers, and home gardens. When the kitchen does not depend on just one ingredient. If one fails, others can still be counted on.

A Living Granary

Food reserves that live in everyday habits, not only in storage buildings.

Food Sovereignty

The freedom to decide what to grow and eat, without being dictated by distant market tastes.

Ancestral Knowledge

Survival recipes passed down across generations. Old ways that remain relevant: reading the seasons, saving seeds, cooking just enough.

Access

Food that is available and affordable, not merely present.

Sustainable Production

Growing with patience, so the land, water, and forests are not depleted by today's harvest.

Local Value Addition

Processing food so it creates fairer livelihoods. When cassava, rice, or fish are handled and processed locally, they sustain community incomes for longer.

Minimum Dependence

Resilience when outside supplies falter. When food prices rise, the kitchen can stay cooking.

Disaster Resilience



The ability to face crises with preparedness, solidarity, and fair recovery. To withstand shocks without losing sense of direction or one another.

Preparedness

The ability to face crises with preparedness, solidarity, and fair recovery. To withstand shocks without losing sense of direction or one another.

Mitigation

Small actions with lasting impact: protecting forests, cleaning rivers, and arranging living spaces.

Recovery

Rising together, leaving no one behind. A gradual process of rebuilding while tending to wounds, both physical and emotional.

Ecosystem Protection

Forests and rivers as natural shields. A preserved environment becomes the first line of protection, before walls and concrete.

Gotong Royong (Mutual Cooperation)

Resilience born from togetherness. When help arrives not by command, but out of care.

Rapid Response

Swift action in critical moments; saving time, saving lives.

Collective Learning

Remembering so the same wounds are not repeated. Turning painful experiences into shared knowledge.

Risk Justice

Those who are most vulnerable must be the most protected.

Climate Adaptation

Adjusting how to live amid unpredictable weather, often beyond what the Agency for Meteorology, Climatology, and Geophysics (BMKG) can foresee.

Personal Resilience



The strength of individuals and communities to remain whole amid pressure and rapid change.

Mental Well-Being

Safe spaces to recover and breathe. Making room for fatigue, sadness, fear, and even tears, without feeling weak.

Identity

Roots that keep life on course. Knowing who we are and where we come from.

Dignity

Living with a sense of worth, being respected, heard, and valued.

Community Self-Belief

The confidence that we are capable of shaping our own future.

Social Relations

Connections that hold us up, not pull us apart.

Meaning

A reason to keep moving, even when the path feels heavy, however slowly.

Personal Adaptation

Adjusting without losing values and identity.

Local Leadership

Growing from experience within the community.

Hope

A shared belief, carefully sustained. A small light kept alive so each step can continue to shine.



*Resilience isn't about being the strongest.
It's about enduring, adapting, and
growing together.*



LTKL
LINGKAR TEMU
KABUPATEN LESTARI

